

CLAIMS

1. Device (10) comprising a housing wherein is accommodated a radio-frequency contactless communication station comprising an antenna (12) for communicating electromagnetically (E) in a remote manner with a data medium (18), more particularly in the form of a card, carried by a user, said housing having a communication area close to the antenna (12) which is permeable to electromagnetic waves, the user being required to bring the data medium (18) close to the communication area (16) to enable communication between the station and said medium, characterized in that the communication area comprises an external surface (16) inclined to a horizontal plane, said communication surface (16) co-operating with means (22) for holding the data medium (18) against the communication surface (16).

2. Device (10) according to the preceding claim, characterized in that the holding means have a lower transverse retaining surface (22) that extends forward globally perpendicularly from the bottom of the communication surface (16) to prevent the data medium (18) sliding downward.

3. Device (10) according to the preceding claim, characterized in that the communication surface (16) cooperates with a transverse rim (20) that extends longitudinally and perpendicularly from the communication surface (16) and whose upper face (22) forms the lower retaining surface.

4. Device (10) according to any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the communication surface (16) is slightly inclined relative to a vertical plane so that the data medium (18) is held pressed against the communication surface (16) by its own weight (P).

5. Device (10) according to any one of claims 2 to 4, characterized in that the holding means include two

parallel lateral uprights (26) that project from the communication surface (16) and extend perpendicularly upward from each of the edges (28) of the retaining surface (22), the uprights (26) being spaced by a distance globally equal to a transverse dimension of the data medium (18) to delimit, with the retaining surface (22), a receiving location intended to receive the data medium (18) and encompassing at least a portion of the communication surface (16).

10       6. Device (10) according to any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that it includes means (26) for preventing objects significantly more bulky than the data medium (18) from being placed on the retaining surface (22).

15       7. Device (10) according to the preceding claim, characterized in that the retaining surface (22) has a longitudinal width globally equal to the longitudinal thickness of the data medium (18).

20       8. Device (18) according to either claim 6 or claim 7 in combination with claim 4, characterized in that the angle ( $\alpha$ ) of inclination of the communication surface (16) to the vertical direction is less than a limiting angle so that an object (32) whose center of gravity (G) is substantially offset longitudinally forward relative to the 25 center of gravity (G) of the data medium (18) tilts relative to the retaining surface (22).

9. Device (10) according to any one of claims 2 to 8, characterized in that the retaining surface (22) includes means for evacuating liquids liable to flow from the communication surface (16) as far as the retaining surface (22).

10. Device (10) according to the preceding claim, characterized in that the retaining surface (22) has liquid evacuation orifices at least at its edges (28).

35       11. Device (10) according to the preceding claim,

characterized in that the retaining surface (22) has a transverse declivity to encourage the flow of liquid toward the evacuation orifices.

12. Device (10) according to claim 9,  
5 characterized in that the retaining surface (22) is formed by at least two lugs that extend perpendicularly forward from the communication surface (16).